

MILITARY BASE REALIGNMENT
AND CLOSURE PROJECTS FOR 2007

HON. NANCY E. BOYDA

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2007

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the upcoming 2007 fiscal year supplemental appropriations bill.

Much of the debate on this bill has focused, quite rightly, on the provisions that codify President Bush's benchmarks for Iraq into law. That is an important subject that I plan to discuss in depth tomorrow.

But for now I wish to spotlight another element of this legislation, a fulfillment of a promise to America's military installations. The supplemental bill will fully fund Base Realignment and Closure projects through 2007, and in so doing, it will close the books on one of the 109th Congress's most shameful failures.

As you may know, the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission was charged with restructuring the American military to better prosecute the war on terror. In the course of their work, the Commission discovered that certain American bases have outstanding strengths that are uniquely valuable in modern-day wars. The Commission asked these installations to scale up their operations, and Congress, in turn, promised to fully fund these expansions.

Among the targeted bases were three in my district: Fort Leavenworth, Fort Riley, and Forbes Field. The base commanders promptly enacted plans to build new facilities and house new personnel—all in the name of protecting America, trusting Congress to fulfill its promise.

But a promise made is not always a promise kept, and the 109th Congress was well known for breaking its word. In their 2 years in office, they cast aside promises to veterans, to schools, to farmers and ranchers, to children and seniors—and, sadly, to America's military bases as well.

For the 2007 fiscal year, when BRAC projects needed \$5.6 billion to move forward as planned, the last Congress appropriated only \$1.5 billion. Worse, they attached strings to what little funding they provided, which essentially blocked all new construction on BRAC projects for 6 months. As of October 1, 2006, all new construction came to an immediate halt. Worse yet, the bases most impacted by underfunding were those that stood to gain the most from BRAC—that is, the very bases at the frontline of the war on terror.

I cannot find words to express the scale of this catastrophe. The last Congress left our Nation less secure and our troops less supported. They closed their wallets and their hearts to the soldiers who so courageously fight the war on terror.

When Democrats took over Congress in January, we acted immediately to right this grave wrong. We passed a further \$1 billion in BRAC funding by the end of January, and we promised to move promptly to fully fund BRAC through supplemental funding. More importantly, these funds allowed new construction to start.

And unlike the last Congress, when this Congress makes a promise to our soldiers, we deliver.

The bill now under consideration will fully fund BRAC for the current fiscal year. It will

help the United States military better fight the war on terror, and it will strengthen and secure our great nation. I urge all of my colleagues, Republicans and Democrats alike, to keep their word to our troops and support this critical legislation.

HONORING LISA HUSSUNG

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mrs. Lisa Hussung, an exemplary citizen from my Congressional District who was recently named Elementary Music Teacher of the Year by the Kentucky Music Educators Association.

A music teacher at Rich Pond Elementary School in Warren County, Kentucky, Mrs. Hussung demonstrates a special ability to relay her passion for music on to her students. She consistently engages students with her interactive teaching style, instilling an appreciation for music that often continues many years after they have left the classroom.

Mrs. Hussung's influence extends outside of the classroom, particularly through her work with other music professionals to build a stronger music curriculum in Warren County. She often leads student groups in choral, instrumental and dance performances, providing opportunities for young artists to publicly showcase their talents.

The combination of Lisa Hussung's two greatest passions, music and teaching, has made her career as a music teacher the perfect job. In her words, "There is nothing better than singing and dancing all day while still teaching and seeing my students learn."

It is my great privilege to recognize Lisa Hussung today before the entire U.S. House of Representatives for her excellent work in public education. Her unique dedication to the development of young people and the communities they will someday serve make her an outstanding citizen worthy of our collective honor and appreciation.

HONORING PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT CLERK
DAVID C. MABIE

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2007

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure today to recognize Mr. David Mabie, of Nokesville, Virginia, on the occasion of his retirement after over four decades of public service.

After serving three years in the U.S. Army, Dave and his wife Copper moved to Waynesboro, Virginia, in 1967 where Dave joined the Waynesboro Police Department. Then in 1970 he became a police officer in Manassas, Virginia, and served as one of the original members of this newly formed Prince William County department. Dave served as a detective and eventually was assigned to the Commonwealth Attorney's Office where he specialized in trial preparation for capital murder cases.

In 1992 Dave was elected to serve as clerk of the Circuit Court in Prince William County, from where he will be retiring on April 1, 2007. Through the years Dave has been an active member of several organizations including the United Way, Regional Jail Board, and Chamber of Commerce. Dave has dedicated his professional life to public service and will be sorely missed by Prince William County and the northern Virginia community as a whole.

I cannot say enough about Dave and how honored I am to have worked with him throughout his career. I would be remiss today in didn't also recognize Dave's dedication to his wife Copper, and how proud he is of their children, Andrew, Meredith, and Christopher, and their many grandchildren. I suspect that as Dave prepares for retirement he is looking forward to spending more time with his family. We wish him the best and thank him for his dedicated service to the people.

CALLING FOR RELEASE OF
ISRAELI SOLDIERS HELD CAP-
TIVE BY HAMAS AND
HEZBOLLAH

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I join with my good friend Congressman GARY ACKERMAN in calling for the unconditional release of the three kidnapped Israeli soldiers held hostage for more than six months by Hezbollah and Hamas. I am proud to co-sponsor it, and to have our Committee bring it up for consideration by the House.

A few weeks ago we were honored by the presence in the Capitol of Karnit Goldwasser, whose husband Ehud remains in Hezbollah's hands. She is a model of strength, courage, and loving commitment.

I put my arm around this young woman—having recently celebrated my 57th anniversary with my own lovely wife—and I assured her that we in the Congress will do our best to see to it that she and her beloved husband Ehud also will have the opportunity to celebrate many anniversaries together in the years ahead.

As everyone knows, Mr. Speaker, Hezbollah and Hamas are the guilty parties in the outbreak of violence in the Middle East last summer. They committed acts of war by crossing into Israeli territory, acts of terror by taking three young Israeli soldiers captive, and vicious unprovoked attacks against Israel's civilian population.

While the immediate fighting between Israel and these terrorist organizations has subsided, the initial causes for the violence, lamentably, have not yet been addressed. Primary among these is the fact that the three young men, Gilad Shalit, Eldad Regev, and Ehud Goldwasser, remain in captivity.

Mr. Speaker, the fighting last summer ended when the United Nations Security Council passed Resolution 1701, which imposed a ceasefire on the Hezbollah attacks against Israel. That resolution unequivocally called for—and I quote—"the unconditional release of the abducted Israeli soldiers."

Therefore, their ongoing captivity is not only immoral. It is also illegal, and it represents